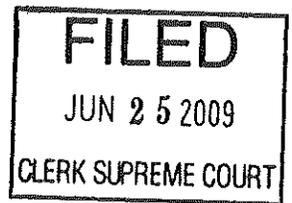


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA



IN THE MATTER OF ACTIONS  
TAKEN TO REDUCE JUDICIAL  
BRANCH OPERATING EXPENSES  
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2010

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SUPERVISORY ORDER

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In view of the continuing shortfall in revenue being experienced by the State of Iowa, the Iowa Judicial Branch has been required to reduce its operating expenses by \$5.4 million for fiscal year 2010. The Supreme Court is resolved to do everything in its power to reduce the operating expenses of the Judicial Branch while continuing to fulfill its vital constitutional responsibilities to the people of Iowa. Accordingly, the court has approved a wide range of expense reduction measures necessary to balance the judicial branch operating budget for fiscal year 2010 with the least direct effect on the public's access to court services. This supervisory order is necessary to effectively carry out some of these measures. Therefore, pursuant to its constitutional authority to supervise and administer the courts of this state, the Supreme Court of Iowa hereby orders:

**1. Travel.**

a. Pursuant to Iowa Court Rule 22.18(2), the mileage reimbursement rate for use of a personal vehicle on official judicial branch business shall be thirty-five cents per mile for mileage incurred on and after July 1, 2009.

b. Effective July 1, 2009, the court rescinds all previously imposed restrictions on travel as ordered on February 2, 2009, and February 27, 2009.

However, the judicial districts need not schedule judicial rotation to the full

extent expressed in Iowa Court Rules 22.6(1) and 22.8(1), but the judicial districts shall strive to rotate judges in accordance with the spirit of these rules.

c. The chief judge of a judicial district may amend official domiciles pursuant to Iowa Court Rule 22.16(4)(b).

## **2. Court Reporters.**

a. To increase the effective and efficient use of court reporter resources, each judicial district, under the direction and supervision of its chief judge, shall pool court reporter personnel. The chief judge or the chief judge's designee shall be responsible for supervising, scheduling, and assigning duties to all court reporters serving in the judicial district. Notwithstanding the authority of the chief judge or the chief judge's designee, a judge presiding over a proceeding that must be reported has the authority to supervise the work of a court reporter while the court reporter is actively engaged in reporting the proceeding over which the judge is presiding.

b. The chief judge may delegate his or her authority to supervise, schedule, or assign all court reporters to the district court administrator or to the district court administrator's designee.

c. Court reporters shall not be assigned to report any proceeding other than those authorized by court rule, statute or order of this court.

d. The authority of a district judge who appoints a court reporter pursuant to Iowa Code section 602.6603 does not supersede the authority of

the chief judge or the district court administrator to supervise, schedule, and assign duties to the court reporter.

e. Vacant court reporter positions shall be filled only upon prior approval of both the chief judge of the judicial district and the state court administrator.

### **3. Clerk of District Court Offices.**

Clerks of District Court are authorized to credit, on the next business day, all payments received after 4:00 p.m.

### **4. Time Standards for Case Processing.**

Suspension of the time standards for case processing found in Iowa Court Rule chapter 23 shall continue.

### **5. Overtime.**

No judicial branch employee who is paid an hourly wage shall be allowed to work more than his or her allocated hours in any given pay period unless authorized in advance by the district court administrator for purposes of working at a trial or for allowing employees of the clerk of court offices to assist an individual who comes to the office near the end of business hours seeking a protective order under chapter 236 or an involuntary commitment under chapters 125 and 229.

### **6. Emailing Orders and Other Court Documents.**

The district courts and appellate courts, including all court components and offices, may distribute copies of court rulings, orders, and notices by electronic mail. The judicial branch shall strive to distribute copies of court

rulings, orders, and notices by electronic mail to the fullest extent feasible. This supervisory order shall prevail over any court rule that specifies a different method or format for sending or creating paper records relating to the courts.

Unless otherwise noted, this order is effective immediately.

Dated this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009.

THE SUPREME COURT OF IOWA

By Marsha Ternus  
Marsha K. Ternus, Chief Justice

Copies to:

- Members of the Supreme Court
- Members of the Court of Appeals
- Chief Judges
- State Court Administrator
- District Court Administrators
- Director of Finance and Personnel